

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2009

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Vice Chair; Mary Giarratana, Norman Guimond, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan (9:18 a.m.), Amy Squyres Tom Valentino, Robin Woods

OTHERS: Linda Santarella (Selectmen's Liaison), Beth Paris (Senior Center Coordinator)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Mrs. Santarella announced that she will no longer be the liaison for the Commission on Aging. She said she will continue to visit the Senior Center.

Mr. Pankowski thanked her for her efforts and time, and said that the liaison role was positive.

After Mrs. Santarella's departure the commission addressed a number of issues.

Discussion took place on how the Commission members will receive the draft of Minutes each month. After a short discussion, the Commission unanimously voted to have the Minutes e-mailed to members by the Chair, with alternate arrangements made for those who do not have computers. Ms. Morgan arrived after the vote and, upon being informed of the same, asked that the Minutes be mailed to her. Mr. Pankowski agreed to mail her the Minutes from his office. Ms. Squyres volunteered to inform Mr. Heinbaugh of the new arrangements and believed that he could pick up his Minutes at the senior center.

Mrs. Squyres inquired why we need a liaison as none of the other commissions have one. She said that the liaison gave no input while in attendance.

Mr. Guimond commented that the liaison does not vote. Mr. Pankowski added that anyone can visit our meeting and sit in the audience. He said that if it is determined that the Commission on Aging is to have a liaison then that is what will transpire. However, when and if we get a successor, we can discuss further.

He stated that when Mr. Kilduff came to our July meeting, the Commission members indicated that they would like more input on what the Selectmen are doing as well.

Mr. Guimond said that he was not aware of the plans for Beth Paris' position, and that the Board of Selectmen decided. Also, he added that the Commission was not apprised that Parks and Recreation will oversee the senior center.

Mr. Guimond announced that he is running in the RTM election and will no longer be able to serve on this commission. Mr. Pankowski thanked him for his service. The commissioners wished him well in the upcoming election. There will be a replacement named if he is elected.

The following correction was made to the September Minutes as follows:

Page 3, Old Business - Delete sentence and replace with - Ms. McCarthy will give a report at the October meeting on communications with the library.

**** MS. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. GUIMOND SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Morgan joined the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Ms. Paris said that her job position is different in that there is much reporting, and tracking of numbers. She was pleased to add that the numbers are going up. She also meets with Sue Swiatek. Ms. Paris read her report as follows:

A three-months status was given at the departments heads meeting as follows:

	July	August	September	Total
Lunches served	583	659	661	1903
Program Attendance	1321	1681	1731	4733
New Members	5	7	10	22

She said that office area wall repairs and painting is complete. Wires for phone and computer is still not completed. She is continuing to de-clutter.

The calendar/newsletter is well received. A 'name the newsletter' contest will be held.

October Highlights –

- Seventy nine participated in getting flu shots on October 5
- Flower Arranging with the Darien Garden Club
- Grandparent Story Time in conjunction with the Darien Library
- High Tea, well received and growing
- Blue Notes singers
- Las Vegas matinee movie performance
- Poetry appreciation
- Medicare choices presentation
- Trip to Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA
- Field trip to Mark Twain House in Hartford by Short Story class – the trip included a tour, lunch, and class held in a private room in his home to discuss one of his stories.

She said she is pleased with the volunteerism in that people are receptive in wanting to help out when able.

She attended an Aging in Place luncheon to network and support.
She represented Darien as Instructor for Alzheimer's Association Family Training seminar.

She is getting involved in advertising and plans to meet with Josh of the Darien Times.
Other leads and possibilities are churches, Center for Hope; and Mr. Pankowski suggested the Lawrence Funeral Home.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Squyres attended the Aging In Place luncheon recently. She reported that the people showed interest in what they were hearing and were engaged.

Ms. Geddes talked about Americans with disabilities in that people have to pay for approximately 15% of their care.

Mr. Guimond said that the State has unfunded mandates.

Ms. Geddes talked about H1N1 in that seniors are the lowest on the list.

Mr. Pankowski said that those seniors with pre-existing conditions should make it known so as to go higher on the list to get vaccinated. Some recent deaths from H1N1 were people that had an underlying or pre-existing condition. Ms. McCarthy added that schools are on the list to get the vaccine.

NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Board of Health is holding a series of lectures at the senior center.

Ms. Geddes will give short lectures on patient advocacy, and Alzheimer's.

ADJOURNMENT

** Ms. Squyres moved to adjourn the meeting.

** Mr. Guimond seconded.

** Motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10: 04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Hohlweck